[Prof Rita Verma]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Other people could not understand it.

(Interruptions)

PROF. RITA VERMA : Deputy Speaker Sir, kindly give me two minutes time to speak . . .*(Interruptions)*.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No, this is already been referred

(Interruptions)

PROF RITA VERMA : I would take only 9 minute . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon'ble Speaker has already referred it so no further discussion can take place on this.

(Interruptions)

PROF. RITA VERMA : I just want to tell in one sentence . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is already too much. There is not need to say anything more . . .*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RITA VERMA : I wanted to say that I was agitating for the interests of those workers of Hindustan steel works construction Ltd. who have become jobless and against corruption. For that I got this punishment that I was insulted, slapped, disrobed thrashed and Jailed . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Alright. This has already been referred.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR (Begusarai) : When the notice is referred to the Privileges Committee, where is the need to explain it further ? How can she do it ?

14.30 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Need to provide financial Assistance to Betel Leave Growers in Lalitpur District of U.P.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI (Jhansi) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, agriculture of betel leaves is done in Lalitpur district of U.P. The cost of production of betel leaves is very high. Due to pest infection for the last three years the production of betel leaves is decreasing there gradually and betel leaves growers have suffered heavy losses. The farmers are on the verge of starvation. I had drawn the attention of the hon. Minister to this fact earlier also. The experts of the Agriculture Research Institute, Jabalpur had conducted an enquiry in this regard, but so far there have been no fruitful results. The U.P. Government has also opened an office to moniter the situation there, but so far no conclusion has been drawn by them also regarding the impact of pests on the betel leave production.

The Minister of Agriculture is therefore requested to take necessary steps to sanction adequate grant-in-aid to growers, provide pesticide and arrange bank loans for them at lower rate of interest to make them prosper and progress.

(ii) Need to provide adequate compensation to the people whose land has been acquired for various projects in Robertsganj, U.P.

SHRI RAMSHAKAL (Robertsganj) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to Robertsganj Parliamentary Constituency which is predominantly inhabited by people belonging to SC and the backward classes. A number of Central, State, and non-governmental schemes are being executed in Sonebhadra district of U.P. but the original land owners have neither been given due compensation for the land nor provided jobs in the projects. The Central Government is requested to inquire into the matter, give due compensation to the land owners and absorb them in the projects.

(iii) Need to release funds for early completion of Pochampad 2nd Phase irrigation project of Andhra Pradesh

[English]

SHRI BHUMA NAGI REDDY (Nandyal) : I would like to bring the matter of Pochampad 2nd Phase irrigation project (Sriram Sagar Project) at Andhra Pradesh in Nalgonda district to the kind attention of this august House. It would irrigate about 2.75 hectares. It is pending for a long time and recently just before the Parliament elections, the foundation stone was laid on 6/3/97 by the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh with a promise that it would